



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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November 16, 2004

Inquiry: Could you tell me the appropriate thing to do when no one comes in on the night shift following me after working a twelve-hour day shift? Further, what are my legal obligations and liabilities regarding my ability to properly and legally leave my patient workload with the nursing supervisor or some other licensed staff member arriving on night shift?

Response: The Board is concerned about the issue you sent to us indicating that you are not certain what action you would take when you have a staffing issue at your facility. Usually, these matters are dictated by hospital policy and are very clear about who is called and how the patients receive treatment. The Board recommends that you check with your employer to ensure a policy does exist and that it is followed. If you are not able to resolve this patient safety issue after conferring with your employer, please feel free to contact us back so that we can assess how we might be able to intervene to avert any patients from being harmed.

Reference #: 2004-C-25